Unmatched Success
TIGERS MAKE HISTORY
Blue & White Days
SEPT. 24-26, 2015

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24
• DWU Theatre presents: “Always Patsy Cline”
  Patten-Wing Theatre

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25
• Alumni Campus Tours
• Legacy Banquet – honoring donors and distinguished alumni
• DWU Theatre presents: “Always Patsy Cline”
  Patten-Wing Theatre

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26
• All-Class Alumni Gathering
  CorTrust Parking Lot, Mitchell Main Street
• Parade
• Pregame Tailgate at Joe Quintal Field
• Homecoming Football Game vs. Hastings College

EVENING
• Class of 1965 Golden Reunion
• Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the first class of DWU nursing graduates
• DWU Theatre presents: “Always Patsy Cline”
  Patten-Wing Theatre

REUNION CLASSES ENDING IN 0 AND 5
Join us for a FULL HOUSE revival performance by the original members: Harry Cook '71, Rita Johnson '70, Bruce Cutler '71, Candi Wiley Phelps ex'70 and Gary Longwell '70.

PLANNING A CLASS REUNION?
Contact the DWU Alumni Office for assistance.

CONTACT US: alumni@dwu.edu or 605-995-2603

GO GREEN!
Send your current email address to the DWU Alumni Office: alumni@dwu.edu.

Online registration is available on July 24.
www.dwu.edu
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Editor: Lori Essig
Staff Writers: Mari Olson, Nick McCutcheon
Graphic Designer: Chad Larson ’94
Photography: Mari Olson
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COVER STORY

DWU’s men’s basketball team did more than make history when it made it to the final round of the NAIA DII Men’s Basketball Championship this year; the “Cinderella” team won the hearts of locals in both Mitchell and Branson, Mo., and came home to a proud university.

Photo by Matt Gade/The Daily Republic
The Significance of Small

Small can be big. While this may sound improbable, in March, I learned how true it is.

In our society, we often link “big” with greatness. Our immediate assumption: big sandwiches taste better. Big houses equate with wealth. A big combine equates with a more successful farmer. Big football players equate with strong defenses. Big schools equate with prestige. It seems we are always aspiring to something bigger, because our assumption is that bigger is better.

In his New York Times best-selling book, “David and Goliath,” Malcolm Gladwell challenges the traditional assumption that bigger is always better. Gladwell argues that often the “underdogs, the misfits, the small” actually perform better. In looking at colleges across the country, Gladwell provides evidence to suggest that small class sizes equate with stronger learning outcomes. Small colleges produce successful graduates because the individualized attention they receive helps them overcome challenges. At larger institutions, students often become a mere number amid a large crowd. Dropping out of college becomes the pathway for students lost in the crowd of “big.” Gladwell argues that parents often encourage students to choose the “big pond” because it expands opportunities. In reality, plenty of evidence exists to suggest that the “little pond” or, in our case, a smaller institution, maximizes your chances to pursue your passions and more importantly, to graduate.

We continue to believe that small, personalized education that fosters an interface between the university and community best prepares graduates for work in the 21st century. We highlight the business community’s support of our students through internships, mentorships and scholarship funding. The university complements this support by creating a curriculum designed to respond to the emerging labor force needs of this region. We highlight the multiple leadership opportunities our students have in a small university to study directly under fully credentialed professors whose first commitment is to teaching and learning. For example, current students are researching the links between air pollution and Alzheimer’s, while others are working in the labs to make soap from indigenous materials in an effort to help women in Third World countries create sustainable businesses. At small universities, students actually have more opportunities for leadership and participation. Theatre students play football. Basketball players use their athletic network to expand awareness of domestic violence. The list goes on.

The fact that “small” creates big opportunities came full circle when our men’s basketball team made it to the championship game of the NAIA Division II Basketball Tournament. “Small” in Branson manifested itself in more than 600 community members and students who created a sea of blue inside Keeter Arena as the DWU Tigers took on a variety of opponents from across America. While we were one of the smallest schools in attendance (by enrollment numbers), we had by far the largest and most loyal following. Tournament directors were in awe of the sheer number of community members, alumni and students who traveled a minimum of 10 hours to support the Tigers!

“Small” quickly became “Cinderella,” which soon translated to “impressive.” And while the players’ performance and the coaching effort was nothing short of exceptional, the tournament directors reflected awe at the impressive community and student support rallying the Tigers to victory. The tournament staff described our crowd as “remarkable and unprecedented.” Small became compelling. Small resonated “loyalty,” “support,” “sincerity” and “greatness.”

At Wesleyan, we talk about the benefits of being part of a small community in the heart of rural America. Small means family. We support each other through challenges and celebrate our collective victories. Small means we recognize that together we are stronger. Acting independently minimizes our potential impact. While we know that some people will always present the negatives or question the intent, the community support both here at home and at

Branson clarified one very important thing: DWU has the support of the Mitchell community and of the communities of this region.

As we move forward, DWU is excited to give back to the communities that continue to embrace our small, academically challenging, innovative, spiritually grounded education. Because, unlike what often the media tell us, small is a big deal. Small equates with potential, with opportunity, with genuine commitment. Let’s be proud as a university, as a community and as a region of who we are. We don’t need to apologize for it. Celebrating “small” and the opportunities it creates will be the key to our success.

Dr. Amy C. Novak
President
Email: Amy.Novak@dwu.edu
Snapshots

COMMENCEMENT 2015

For more DWU graduation photos, visit:
• www.dwu.edu (click on Flickr logo)

Graduates line up during opening ceremonies for DWU’s Commencement, from right to left: Lacey Reimnitz, of Corsica; Emma Otterpohl, of Mount Vernon; Dillon Miles, of Mitchell; Kayla Mielitz, of Big Stone City; Skyler Heyden, of Burke; Kayla Collins, of Woonsocket; Alexandra Christensen, of Mitchell; and Thara Ali Said, of Muscat, Oman.

Jenna Callies Miller, of Mitchell, gets ready for Baccalaureate services.

Ron and Sheila Gates have given tremendous support to Dakota Wesleyan, as well as the Mitchell community. Ron Gates Sr., of Mitchell, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration during Commencement.

Dr. John Cawley, a 2004 DWU graduate, gave the Commencement address – focusing on the need to live life to the fullest and take advantage of all opportunities.

Andrew DeVaney, of Sioux Falls, received the Bishop Armstrong Peace and Justice Award from Dr. Dave Mitchell during Baccalaureate.
By Mari Olson

Through colorful imagery and playful rhyme, a new children’s book tells the story of how one cow makes a very big difference in the life of a little boy.

The true story of Haptamu, a boy in Ethiopia, is told in “A Moo For You/All That a Moo Can Do,” a book written, illustrated and produced by a Dakota Wesleyan University professor and her students.

The story is told from two perspectives; first, in “A Moo For You,” Haptamu tells how the gift of the cow changed his family’s life – including allowing his mother the income to send him to school. When the reader flips the book over, the cow shares her perspective in “All That a Moo Can Do,” a more playful story of how the happy cow finds her purpose and a friend.

The book is on sale in the DWU Campus Bookstore, and all of the proceeds will go to the McGovern Center’s Livestock for Life program, which provides livestock to disadvantaged families in Rwanda and Uganda, both countries with which the McGovern Center has developed relationships.

The entire story is based on an actual little boy, Haptamu, whose life was changed when his family received a heifer. It was written by Dr. Alisha Vincent, director of the McGovern Center, illustrated by DWU student Dyrani Clark, and designed by DWU student Thara Ali Said. Several other students took part in researching self-publishing companies, organizing the materials and seeing the project through.

“It was fun to work on something that is actually going to be put out there and appreciated by other people,” said Ali Said. “I am honored to have helped put together something for such a good cause and something that is going to help people in need.”

Art imitating life

Several years ago, Vincent’s friend, Marti Boal, told her about a child she was sponsoring in Ethiopia, an 8-year-old named Haptamu. Boal sent Haptamu’s family enough money to purchase a bred heifer and when she visited the next year, Boal saw how his life had been transformed, Vincent said.

Haptamu’s family thrived, and they were able to sell surplus milk to fund Haptamu’s school fees. Realizing this would make a great children’s story, Vincent and Boal sat down over coffee one morning to hash out the concept. By that afternoon Vincent had a rough draft, which sat dormant for some time while she moved her family to Mitchell from Iowa and began her new career at DWU.

The resurrection of “A Moo For You/All That a Moo Can Do” came about last spring as a class project in Vincent’s leadership and public service class. One of the project’s students, Kayla Vanden Hoek, expressed interest in connecting her group’s project with the Universities Fighting World Hunger club on campus.

Vincent offered her story to the group and what was to be a semester project is now complete, a year later. Vanden Hoek, of Corsica, joined by Ali Said, of Muscat, Oman, Taylor Davis-Bohr, Krista Huber, and Jade Miller, all of Mitchell, advertised on campus for an illustrator and were charmed by Clark’s sketches.

Students in the leadership and public service class have published a children’s book about hunger and how people can help, written by Dr. Alisha Vincent, shown at left in back, and produced by Kayla Vanden Hoek, of Corsica, joined by Krista Huber and Taylor Davis-Bohr, both of Mitchell, and Thara Ali Said, of Muscat, Oman, and Jade Miller, of Mitchell (both seated). The class then enlisted DWU student Dyrani Clark, of Loveland, Colo., (in red) to illustrate.
Art finds life of its own

Clark, a digital media and design major from Loveland, Colo., spent all summer finishing the book’s artwork, and Ali Said spent the fall semester designing the book.

“I have always been passionate about the arts, especially painting, and when exploring different artists’ styles I would sometimes look at children’s books and be mesmerized by the great variety of approaches artists have used to illustrate those books,” Clark said. “I secretly still love to read children’s books today – for the pictures of course – and it has been a dream of mine to be an illustrator. I never thought I would get an opportunity like this in college.”

Since Haptamu is from Ethiopia, Clark spent time researching environmental shots of the country, creating thumbnail sketches of possible designs and finishing the project over her summer break.

“I finished up the designs for each page and drew them onto large watercolor paper,” Clark described. “Since watercolors are my specialty, I chose that medium for the illustrations and went with a realistic, yet stylized approach, and finished up with ink over top for details.”

Davis-Bohr researched a self-publishing company for the book; Huber was in charge of finding an editor to review it; and Miller was tasked with business questions, said Vanden Hoek, who took the lead on seeing the project through this spring with the publishing company.

“I grew up in a community where if someone needed something, anything, everyone in the community would lend a helping hand,” Vanden Hoek said. “I believe Jesus Christ calls us to help one another, not just in our local communities but also in our global communities.

“Growing up, I had plenty of food to fill my tummy, but it wasn’t until I took a mission trip to India that really opened my eyes to what hunger truly was. Children on the streets would be begging for food ... Since then, I have taken a particular interest in international hunger. I believe that no child should know what it’s like to starve.”

Vanden Hoek and her mother also traveled to Uganda and Rwanda last summer with the McGovern Center and saw, firsthand, the Livestock for Life program in action when 30 goats were gifted to local families.

Livestock for Life

The way Livestock for Life is set up in Rwanda and Uganda, Africa, a local school parent-teacher organization works with the McGovern Center to select families in greatest need of food assistance. Small livestock (typically a goat) are gifted to a family. The family cares for the goat until it reproduces, then keeps the primary goat and works with local Parent Teacher Associations or local churches to gift an offspring to another family in need. In 2014, 30 goats, a dairy cow and supplemental supports (veterinarian fees, rope and feed) were gifted to support rural communities in Uganda and Rwanda. Donations toward this project give families the tools they need to build their future. Every $50 supports the gift of one goat. To make a donation to the Livestock for Life program, visit https://give.dwu.edu/livestock.

Thara Ali Said, a mathematics and graphic design double major who graduated this May, reads to the kindergarten class at L.B. Williams Elementary School in Mitchell. Ali Said was the designer for the children’s book, “A Moo For You/All That a Moo Can Do.”

On sale now for $20 at the DWU Campus Bookstore or online at https://store.dwu.edu/MooBook
creating a recipe for change

STUDENTS, FACULTY TO TAKE SOAP-MAKING BUSINESS TO AFRICA

By Mari Olson

SOAP.

Whether it comes in bubbles, liquid, bars or detergent – Americans have a variety to choose from. It’s inexpensive and available at gas stations, grocery stores and even given away free at hotels.

For some village women in Uganda, though, it’s a different story.

Dr. Alisha Vincent, director of the McGovern Center at Dakota Wesleyan, took a group of students on a service-learning trip to Uganda and Rwanda last summer. While there, Vincent took part in a women’s health workshop along with DWU student Kayla Vanden Hoek, of Corsica.

“At the end of the workshop, the women were eager to receive bars of soap that my nursing friend from Iowa had picked up in the city as a giveaway,” Vincent said. “Some of the mothers in the room seemed almost desperate to get their hands on a bar, because it just isn’t that accessible and moms everywhere really do want their families to be clean and healthy.”

This got the group thinking about things like affordability and accessibility. The village is about a 15-minute drive to the closest town, where soap is available but expensive, and it’s about a four-hour drive from the closest city where prices are more reasonable.

“For some of the least privileged in the village, soap is a luxury,” Vincent said.

Making soap sounds easy enough – the process isn’t terribly complicated, a chemical reaction between lard and lye – but in Uganda, animal fat and lye are just as difficult to obtain as the product they make.

Enter DWU chemistry professors Dr. Bethany Melroe Lehrman and Dr. Paula Mazzer. Vincent reached out to both in hopes they could direct Vanden Hoek and other students in what became known as the “Africa soap project.”

Hannah Ford, a graduating senior from Vermillion who was on the pre-med track, jumped at the chance to take part, and soon she and Vanden Hoek, a junior double-major in biochemistry and psychology, were spending hours every week in the labs trying to create lye from wood ash, and soap from combining it with corn oil – both materials that will be available to Ugandan women.

“I overheard Dr. Mazzer, Dr. Melroe and Kayla discussing it when I was leaving a class one day, and I basically butted my way in,” Ford said about her joining the project. “I started asking questions about it and became intrigued. I asked to be a part of it, and we had our first official meeting soon after.”

Ford describes the process of making soap as simple, yet anything but easy.

“The chemical reaction that is occurring is called saponification, and that happens when lye (which is basically just sodium hydroxide) mixes with oil or lard,” she explained. “Where we were most successful was when we used commercial lye with animal fat. Where we are struggling right now is using homemade lye – made from a wood ash and water mixture – and corn oil. These are the materials that will
likely be used in Uganda.

“Our biggest problem right now is finding a way for it to solidify... We have successfully made soap, but we have not perfected the recipe using the most affordable and accessible supplies they have available in Uganda. We are planning on meeting up this summer to continue to work on it and hopefully nail it down before the team leaves in July.”

Vanden Hoek’s involvement is both personal and spiritual – having been to Africa once already and seeing the need firsthand.

“My philosophy of helping others comes from the fact that I believe it is important to strive to be Christ-like in everything that we do, which means lending a helping hand to those who need help,” Vanden Hoek said. “Since I am not currently in Africa, being in the lab is the best way for me to continue to help in any way that I can.”

In layman’s terms, Vanden Hoek describes the actual process of creating lye from wood ash and then making soap:

“You would begin by collecting ash from burned wood and putting it in a bucket with a tiny hole at the bottom. You can then take lots of water and pour it on top of the ash. The water should begin to drain out of the bottom of the ash bucket and voila – you have made lye, a very basic solution. You can then add the lye to either oil or fat and should stir vigorously for several hours if needed. If you are lucky, you will have made a very thick solution and can then pour it into molds to sit for several weeks to allow the pH to go down. After several weeks your bar of soap should be ready to use.”

The next wrinkle in the project came with mixing. There are no guarantees of electricity, so powered mixers are out of the question. The group bought hand-operated egg beaters but still the process is slow and tiresome.

DWU junior Michael Claar, an accounting major from Boise, Idaho, heard about the problem from Vincent, and though he had no prior involvement in the trip, the project or the labs, decided he could help out in his own way.

He is going to convert a bicycle into a mixing apparatus.

“I chose to use a bike because of its availability in-country, as well as its components,” Claar said. “Essentially, I use the main components of a bike in a simple frame to utilize the gears and pedals to create a fast, efficient mixer which is able to thoroughly mix the soap in a cost-effective manner.”

He started with the idea from Alisha Vincent, and then began by taking apart some old bikes. From there, he started to experiment. He is currently just finishing up prototyping my first model and will begin testing and improving my design.

The ultimate goal is to have the recipe and bicycle-mixer’s instructions finished by July when Vincent takes another group to East Africa for a service-learning trip. DWU sophomore Ariana Arampatzis, of Aberdeen, and Claar will be going on the trip and will teach the locals how to make the soap. There are 13 people going on the trip, including Vincent, five DWU students and two DWU alumni.

The partnerships involved to see the project through didn’t stop at the chemistry department.

Senior Jared Stearns, of Canton, sophomore Isaac Van Essen, of Sioux Falls, and senior Emily Olson, of Woonsocket, are members of CEO, DWU’s student business club. Vincent enlisted the club to assist in creating a business plan for the village women to build a soap-making and selling business for their area.

Derik Fossum ‘12, ‘13, head track and field coach at DWU, will join the team and facilitate a business workshop and distribute two iPads, purchased by CEO, to be used for business applications.

“This has been an effective interdisciplinary exercise in real-world problem-solving,” Vincent said. “These students are part of a project that can potentially change lives, thanks to great teamwork and persistence.”

To follow DWU’s various mission and service-learning trips, like its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dwublue.
Four-year nursing scholarships offered to encourage Huron careers

A desire to ensure the supply of future nurses in Huron led Paul '50, HD'70 and Donna Starr '51, HD’91 Christen to create an endowment and to partner with the Huron Regional Medical Center (HRMC) to provide nursing scholarships to students interested in a nursing career in Huron.

The Christen-Dakota Wesleyan University Nursing Scholarship Endowment and the HRMC together offer Build Huron nursing scholarships to select students who commit to working as nurses in Huron for five years. The scholarships will cover all yearly tuition and fees except for $4,000 which is the responsibility of the student.

Applications for the Build Huron Nursing Scholarship Program are available by contacting DWU admissions.

Wesleyan announces Van Zee as the Kelley Center director

Dr. Ryan Van Zee will be the new director of the Kelley Center for Entrepreneurship beginning this fall. Van Zee comes to DWU from the University of Sioux Falls, where he has been the director of entrepreneurial studies since 2008. He managed the directing duties for the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Innovation, as well as designed or taught classes in business, management, innovation, finance, and marketing. He also comes with experience working in small business development, fundraising, and consulting.

“Dr. Ryan Van Zee brings invaluable experience and insight to the DWU Kelley Center for Entrepreneurship,” said President Amy Novak. “His passion for innovation in both the profit and nonprofit sectors, exceptional record of teaching, and his personal business experience will allow the Kelley Center to continue to be a hallmark of the educational experience for all Wesleyan students. As DWU continues to position itself at the forefront of innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, Dr. Van Zee’s ability to use the foundation of the great thinkers of our civilization to shape innovative thinking and learning will be an asset to all of our students. We are excited about the vision and leadership he brings to the Kelley Center.”

Before USF, he was a high school principal at Garretson School District from 2004 to 2007, following six years as a high school business teacher.

Van Zee received his Bachelor of Science degree in business and computer education from Northern State University, his Master of Arts degree in education administration from California State University, Bakersfield, and his Doctor of Education degree in administration from the University of South Dakota.

He received the 2014 Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee Chair Service Award; the 2014 Rotary West Presidential Service Award; was named a 2013 Autonomous Learning World Caucus Participant from Exeter College, Oxford, England; and was a Top 10 finalist for the 2012 South Dakota Governor’s Giant Vision Business Plan Competition.

Van Zee will replace former director Fredel Thomas who has taken a position as dean of admissions at DWU.

DWU’s Megan Johnson displays research posters on the Hill

Megan Johnson was selected as South Dakota’s only representative for Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C., in April.

A Rapid City native, Johnson graduated from DWU in May with majors in biochemistry and psychology. She and 59 other undergraduate students were chosen from 500 applicants to travel to Washington and meet with their Congressional representatives, as well as present their research at a formal poster session. Other activities include a reception and awards ceremony.

All of Johnson’s research, which is funded by the Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN), was conducted at DWU in the Glenda K. Corrigan Health Sciences Center under the mentorship of Dr. Paula Mazzer, assistant professor of biochemistry. Johnson is Dakota Wesleyan’s second science student to be chosen for Posters on the Hill in the last three years.

“Megan is incredible,” Mazzer said. “She has been working in my lab as an undergraduate researcher since 2013, and is now basically running my lab. She takes care of ordering chemicals, training new undergraduates, and keeps our cell cultures growing. Even though she is only a senior, she is functioning like a graduate student.”

Johnson’s topic covers the adverse effects of air pollution on brain cells. She recently presented her poster, “The effects of airborne particulate matter on rat neuronal cells,” at the 100th meeting of the South Dakota Science Academy on April 10-11, and took first place in undergraduate work in the female division.
DATIELINES

**January:** DWU theatre student Morgan Shoenfelder earns a Certificate of Merit at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

**March:** DWU music program tours Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

**February:** Cassidy Hendricks, of Buffalo, Minn., is named the 2015-16 McGovern Legacy Scholar during DWU’s Scholarship Day.

**February:** Thanael Certa-Werner, of Superior, Wis.; Rachel Christensen, of Jamestown, N.D.; Mason Juracek, of Gregory; Beau Keeter, of Miller; and Erik Wehlander, of Iroquois; receive the Bishop Leadership Award.

**March 7:** The DWU alumni office hosts a Chicago-area alumni and friends gathering in Lake Bluff, Ill.

**March 21:** DWU’s Future Teachers Organization hosts its 17th annual Dr. Seuss Carnival.

**March 23:** Fredel Thomas ’14 is named dean of admissions.

**March 26:** DWU’s Madi Miller, of Mitchell, and Ann Thury, of Parkston, are nominated for the Irene Ryan Award, to be awarded in 2016 during the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

**March 31:** DWU Human Services Club teams up with Davison County Child Protection Team to host speaker Jolene Loetscher, founder of Selfspiration, on campus for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**April 15:** Garry Oppenheimer and Lionel Bordeaux speak at the first McGovern South Dakota Hunger Ambassador Award.

**April 15:** John Lushbough, of Vermillion, is named the winner of this year’s McGovern South Dakota Hunger Ambassador Award.

**April 16:** Peter Greer and Gary Oppenheimer speak at the second annual Conference for Leadership, Innovation and Social Change.

**April 22:** President Amy Novak receives Creighton University’s Seagren-Joekel-Ihrig Award for Best Interdisciplinary Leadership Dissertation.

**April 23:** Dr. Mike Catalano, professor of mathematics and math department chairman, is named the dean for the Donna Starr Christen College of Healthcare, Finance and Sciences.

**April 24:** Ashley Diggmann ’06, an instructor of mathematics, is promoted to chair of the education department. She also receives the Exemplary Teacher Award during DWU’s Honors Banquet.

**May 7:** Dr. Paula Mazzer, assistant professor of biochemistry, and Josh Cleveland, admissions counselor, receive the spring Professional Excellence Awards for faculty and staff.

**www.dwu.edu/press**

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**FACULTY NEWS**

**DR. JOEL ALLEN,** assistant professor of religion and philosophy, has written a chapter for a book on Christian ethics, due out next year. Allen also reads his paper, “The Place That Yahweh Sees: A Study of Textual Manipulation in the Argument of the Deuteronomist,” at the Upper Midwest Society of Biblical Literature meeting in St. Paul in April. In addition, a presentation he gave based on his paper, “The Despoliation of Egypt: Origen and Augustine,” at an invitational conference in San Diego in 2013 called “Exodus: Out of Egypt, Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Archaeology, Text and Memory,” was recently published on YouTube, and Springer International Publishing printed the paper, as well.

**ERIN DESMOND,** voice and piano instructor, conducts the Wesleyan Bells, which were selected to perform a session at the South Dakota Music Educators Convention in Sioux Falls last November.

**ASHLEY DIGGMANN ’06,** instructor of mathematics and chairwoman for the DWU Department of Education, gave a talk, “Use Free Google Software to Collect Data for a Statistical Analysis of M&M Colors and Varieties,” at the International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics in Las Vegas in March.


**DR. DONNA JOHNSON,** assistant professor of special education and elementary education, serves on the South Dakota State Library (SDLA) Committee that oversees the annual Prairie Prairie Pasque Children’s Book Contest and awards. She was a presenter of this year’s book choices at a workshop during the SDLA Annual Conference in Pierre in October. She also published an article, “Discovering ‘Wild Flowers’ in South Dakota Libraries,” in the April/May/June 2015 Book Marks (Vol 66, No 2), the quarterly newsletter of the SDLA. In addition, Johnson co-presented a workshop session called, “From Pterodactyls to Helicopters: Unlocking Spelling Through Morphology,” at the annual Special Education Conference in Sioux Falls in March. She has been invited to make this presentation again at the Living Education Retreat, which will take place at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Frontenac, Minn., on July 17.


**JESSE WEINS ’03,** associate professor for criminal justice and dean of the College of Leadership and Public Service, was invited to speak for the Platte-Geddes High School National Honor Society induction ceremony in March. Weins’ book, “Sexing and Youth: A Multidisciplinary Examination of Research, Theory, and Law,” edited by Todd C. Hestand and Weins and published by Carolina Academic Press, was published in May 2014 and has now been purchased by more than 150 university libraries, including Stanford, Yale, UC-Berkeley, New York University and the University of Chicago.
Worship Under the Stars takes place several times a semester through Campus Ministry. (Photo by Andrew DeVaney ’15)

Senior Christian Doyle, of Jackson, Wyo., snuggles up to a puppy brought in by Student Life as a stress reliever. There were several “puppy days” this year with dogs brought in by staff, the animal shelter and Golden Penny Kennels in Mitchell. (Photo by Jerrett Mills)

Senior Hannah Harbour (Thing 1), of Ore Grande, Calif., stops running around for a bit in order to catch up on a good story during the annual Dr. Seuss Carnival at L.B. Williams Elementary School. This event is organized and sponsored by DWU’s Future Teachers Organization.

Sophomore Alaina Bertsch, of Mitchell, and senior Britney Kaufmann, of Spencer, practice stage combat during a warm day on campus.

The 2015-16 course catalog now includes a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry, and the chemistry professors decided to host a “signing day” for students who wanted to switch from a Bachelor of Arts to Bachelor of Science. Shown here, Dr. Paula Mazzer, assistant professor of biochemistry, junior Elise Sutherland of Tooele, Utah, and Dr. Bethany Melroe Lehrman, assistant professor of chemistry. (Photo submitted by Paula Mazzer)
An Ultimate Professional: Remembering Coach Doug Martin

“Playing for Coach Martin was an amazing experience. What he taught was how to be men and to be part of a team, not just as a basketball player, but as member of a community. Coach was so well respected in the coaching community. One of my fondest memories was a tournament in Hawaii where we marched through the jungle to a waterfall and the players complained about the distance, but Coach didn’t complain at all and just plugged away. He had a lot of perseverance and taught that to his players.”

Randy Baruth (1997-2000)
“What comes to mind with Coach was that he was the ultimate professional. He was just a classy guy. The way he handled himself on and off the court was always professional. He approached every day the same way he wanted his players to approach it. We practiced at 6 a.m. every day at the Corn Palace, and I was there early to get ankles taped and Coach was there sweeping the floor. Everything with Coach Martin was genuine. Whether he was chewing us out or consoling us, it was genuine. It was never difficult to play hard for him.”

Brook Begeman (1997-2001)
“You knew you were part of a family, and you knew he cared about you off the court, not just as a basketball player. That made you want to play hard for him. He had a pretty dry wit and was quick to make a joke. He was always able to ease the tension. He was able to get his point across but never chewed you out in front of the team. Coach Kevin Lein (Martin’s former assistant) said Coach Martin forgot more about the game than we will ever know.”

Wes Morgan (1988-91)
Coached with Martin in 1992
“He taught the basics and expected big things out of us. He came into a rebuilding program from the University of South Dakota, and he had a project ahead of him. There were no excuses, and he wanted to get better every game. He taught me a lot, and I still do some of the things that I learned from him now that I’m a coach.”

OBITUARY
Dakota Wesleyan University lost a legend when former men’s basketball coach Doug Martin passed away at the age of 78 on Dec. 14, 2014, following hospice care for several months.
Martin coached 17 seasons from 1988 to 2005 at DWU, the second longest tenure in the program’s history and was the school’s athletic director from 1990 to 1999. His 252 career wins with the Tigers is second only to Gordon Fosness.
Martin spent four seasons as the coach at Mount Marty College and six at the University of South Dakota before coming to DWU.
Martin is a member of the Dakota Wesleyan, Mount Marty and South Dakota Sports Halls of Fame. Martin and his father, Rod, were the only father and son to both join the Wisconsin Basketball Association Hall of Fame at the time of induction.
The La Crosse, Wis., native remains close to the hearts and memories of DWU family, faculty and fans as more than 100 donations have been made to the Doug Martin Memorial Fund, which was started shortly after the former coach’s passing. The fund will go to DWU men’s basketball scholarships in the future.
For information on donating to the Doug Martin Memorial Fund, please contact DWU Athletic Director Curt Hart at 605-999-4465 or Associate Athletic Director Jon Hart at 605-999-2238.

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Lawrence “Pops” Harrison was the DWU director of admissions from 1957 to 1961. According to “The Dakota Wesleyan University Memory Book 1885-2010” by James Mclaird ’62, Hd’05, “His marketing strategy was highly successful; he brought 227 freshmen to the campus in 1960, when there were only 503 full-time students at the college. More than 100 of these freshmen were from out of state, many from urban areas in the East... In the January 1961 Phreno Cosmian, student Don Messer (’63, HD’77) also pointed out that some students claimed the school had misrepresented its program and facilities...”

First Impressions: Cowboys were big back then. I loved the West. My mother drove us out and just as we passed the border into South Dakota, there was a field and a young colt, so that added to the whole cowboy mystique. There is a movie called “Where the Boys Are,” and coming to DWU reminded me of that movie. We happened to come to campus the week of the Corn Palace Festival, and we thought it was like a Midwest Disneyland. The Corn Palace was a big deal; it was beautiful.

DWU wasn’t what Pops Harrison said it was. It was better. It forced us to take a deep breath and see the world from a whole different perspective, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me.

Here are memories and impressions from some of those recruits from the East Coast who came west to Dakota Wesleyan University in the early ’60s. This fall, they will celebrate their 50th class reunion at Blue & White Days.

Joan Stratton-Cooke Woodward ’65; Camarillo, Calif.
New Rochelle High School, New Rochelle, N.Y.
Major: Biology
On Pops Harrison: He came to our high school and said, “Dakota Wesleyan University has everything East Coast schools could offer, including an indoor track and an Olympic-sized swimming pool.” Pops was the salesman of all salesmen. We were from New York. We didn’t interpret it as lying; we viewed it as storytelling.

First Impressions: Cowboys were big back then. I loved the West. My mother drove us out and just as we passed the border into South Dakota, there was a field and a young colt, so that added to the whole cowboy mystique. There is a movie called “Where the Boys Are,” and coming to DWU reminded me of that movie. We happened to come to campus the week of the Corn Palace Festival, and we thought it was like a Midwest Disneyland. The Corn Palace was a big deal; it was beautiful.

DWU wasn’t what Pops Harrison said it was. It was better. It forced us to take a deep breath and see the world from a whole different perspective, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me.

Andrew Boyajian ’65; Cranbury, N.J.
Hasbrouck Heights High School, Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.
Majors: Biology and American history with a specialty in the frontier
Favorite professor: Leonard Jennewein
Career: Biology teacher
Fondest Memory: The bicycle trip (Note: Boyajian rode his bicycle 1,400 miles from Mitchell to Hasbrouck Heights, N.J., in June 1962, garnering notoriety among classmates and the media), and the February 1962 temperature which went from minus 35 degrees to 68 degrees.
Greatest Lesson Learned: The bicycle trip gave me a much stronger feeling of self-reliance.

Steve Schock ’65; Oceanside, Calif.
New Rochelle High School, New Rochelle, N.Y.
Major: Physical education
Career: Went on to earn a degree in mechanical engineering at South Dakota State University. For 12 years, I built both nuclear and fossil power plants in the U.S. and overseas. In 1982, I formed Schock Engineering Corp., providing engineering consulting expertise for large electrical utility companies throughout the U.S. In 1996, I made a career shift and opened a funeral home and cremation service. Today, I have three funeral establishments in the San Diego area.
First Impression: I left New York out of JFK Airport in August 1961. I flew to Minneapolis, then to Sioux Falls, and then on to Mitchell, the planes growing ever smaller as I flew west. I landed in Mitchell at night and discovered the ground crew, baggage handler, meteorologist and airport manager were all the same person.
It took most of my first year to adjust to the small campus. The cultural differences between metropolitan New York and the rural life in Mitchell were striking – pheasant hunting, Lake Mitchell beer parties, and 3.2 beer, for example. I never found the Olympic-sized pool or the indoor track.

Clem Lagala ’64; Port St. Lucie, Fla.
Horace Greeley High School, Chappaqua, N.Y.
Major: History
Favorite Professor: Leonard Jennewein
Career: Business; teaching
First Impression: I was wondering what I was doing out here in the middle of nowhere.
Fondest Memories: The day we beat Northern State College in football for the first time ever (1960), and being the first in my family to graduate from college with my mother in attendance at graduation in 1964.
John T. Butler ’65, Cinnaminson, N.J.
1965 Scotchman
Valley Stream Central High School, Valley Stream, N.Y.
Majors: Psychology and sociology
Career: Earned an M.S.W. from the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work; had a 29-year career in social work at a correctional facility in California

Favorite Professor: Elmer Schwieder – He not only taught the most entertaining class, but after each multiple choice test he’d open the answers for challenges from the class. It gave me my first chance to really shine as a scholar, and I earned my first ‘A’ at the end of the semester, plus the compliment to me by Dr. Schwieder that he knew I was one of his ‘A’ students. That changed my self-image as a scholar.

First Impression: Having missed my connecting flight from Sioux Falls to Mitchell Airport, I arrived at night in one of two vans of freshman students from the East, who had also missed the same connection. The vans took us to Graham Hall where much to everyone’s delight, we heard the mooing of cows off somewhere in the darkness. The van driver was told that there was no room at the inn (Graham Hall) so thankfully, rather than put us up in a manger, he drove us into town to a hotel. That was my most memorable impression of DWU: that the town of Mitchell had not one, but two, movie theatres and a bowling alley. I was quietly ecstatic, as I didn’t want my fellow van passengers to know that one of their urbane numbers could be so easily elated by such simple amenities. The next day when I found the “Rec” was a few steps down into a basement room with booths, a nickel jukebox and a Coke machine just like John’s, the place I ate lunch at every day in high school, it’s as if I’d been sent there by God. They had John’s right there in the middle of DWU’s campus in Mitchell, South Dakota! If that wasn’t a sign, then what else could one possibly ask for to recognize the hand of destiny?

Greatest Lesson: My turnaround as a student from academic probation my freshman year to a 3.0 my first semester of my sophomore year became known around campus. I was living off campus and took up studying for hours on end in the library stacks. A senior who worked in the library, George Nold, took an interest in my transformation and would stop and chat occasionally. I didn’t realize until later that he was taking me under his wing. One day George asked me what I wanted to do at DWU, and I told him I wanted to be Social Committee Chairman (a pretty tall order considering I’d never served on the Social Committee). George was on the Student Senate and told me he’d let me know when to apply, which he did (or I’d have completely missed the deadline, as I had every such deadline in my entire life). He then mentored me to speak to every member of the Senate individually and get their input as to what they thought the Social Committee should do. I incorporated all they told me into a 12-point platform that I presented to the Senate, winning every vote but one. I’ve never shone (before or since) as I did my year as Social Committee Chairman. On that contribution alone, my peers honored me as Scotchman, as surely nothing else I did would have merited such a kindness.

I have DWU to thank for a wonderful overhaul of my self-image and for leading me to a wonderful wife.

Myles Kennedy ’66; Spearfish
Valley Stream Central High School, Valley Stream, N.Y.
Majors: Business and history
Career: Banking

First Impression: My impression of DWU was OK, but landing in Mitchell surrounded by corn fields, and then seeing the Corn Palace, I wasn’t sure if I’d made the right decision.

Fondest Memory: DWU was a small school where you got to know everybody, and because of that I was invited to the UN for Kuwait’s Independence Day celebration. The second ambassador to the UN from Kuwait was a graduate of DWU.

I have DWU to thank for bringing me to South Dakota, my success in life and for the lifelong friendships I made. I’m just grateful that DWU let me in, and let me out with a diploma!

Herb Meserve ’64; Shoreham, N.Y.
Plainedge High School, North Massapequa, N.Y.
Major: History
Career: High school history teacher for 35 years
Favorite Professor: Mr. Jennewein – he introduced me to looking at the ideas in history, not the memorizing of facts. He also took a personal interest in me and many of his other students.

Funniest Memory: Running the homecoming parade in 1963 and including a float from the Friday Night Study Club with John Palmieri (Ohio) leading it. I heard about it later from the president’s office.

Greatest Lesson Learned: That I enjoyed learning. I think the size of DWU was a very important factor in helping students succeed.
The DWU fans were organized and loud during the NAIA Division II Men’s Basketball Tournament, creating a real home-court advantage for the Tigers. Each team was allotted one corner of the lower deck for students and fans. For most schools this was plenty of space, but more room was needed with each passing game for the DWU faithful. The Tigers overflowed the lower-deck section and by the time the title game rolled around, DWU blue and white took over the entire upper deck of Keeter Gymnasium.
Before every game in Branson, Mo., the Tigers hosted a reception at the hotel. For the first game, the gathering was contained in the hotel breakfast room with approximately 150 people in attendance. As Tigers continued their run, the receptions grew. For the championship round, DWU fans spilled out into the parking lot with hundreds of Tiger faithful looking on and showing their appreciation and pride for Tiger basketball.

Tiger fans old and young made the trip to Branson to cheer on DWU. Left is an image of Tyson Wilber, 1-year-old son of DWU men's basketball coach Matt Wilber and volleyball coach Lindsay Wilber, looking through railing at the Tiger players as they exit the bus to join a pregame reception at the team hotel.

While the parents, faculty and fans gathered at the hotel for daily receptions, the Tiger students lined up outside Keeter Gymnasium on the campus of the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo., before each game. Much like the hotel receptions, the group of students in attendance grew with each Tiger win. Before the title game with a scheduled start of 6 p.m., the students were beginning to line up before 10 a.m.
When the doors opened at Keeter Gymnasium, the DWU fans flooded through in force. Each student rushed to get the best seats in the house. For most contests, the number of DWU students and fans vastly outnumbered those of the opposing team. Outside the arena before the games, the theme was blue and white.

The Corn Crib Crazies packed DWU’s home arena during each home game this season, but their passion was taken to another level in Branson. Despite the more than 10-hour drive from Mitchell to Branson, the Tiger student section overflowed the allotted seats set aside for each team. While the Tiger players were putting on a magnificent performance on the court, the DWU fans became the talk of the tournament. During the week of the tournament, no one could walk around Branson without seeing a sea of blue and white.

The boost the crowd gave to the DWU men’s basketball team was evident, as each game felt like a home game. The players and coaches showed their gratitude in every interview and postgame celebration. Starting point guard Joey Mitchell extends a hand to his fellow DWU classmates at the national tournament.
Men’s basketball has been part of the fabric of Dakota Wesleyan University for nearly 100 years. The Tigers have brought tremendous pride to the school’s students, alumni and fans throughout the years, but 2014-15 marked a season like none that came before.

The Tigers marched through the 2015 NAIA Division II Men’s Basketball Tournament all the way to the title game, setting numerous team records and setting new standards for greatness along the way. With several months gone since the national-final run, DWU Coach Matt Wilber said this season will only add to the legendary history of Tiger basketball.

"Being a South Dakota guy, I’ve always known the kind of reputation Dakota Wesleyan basketball has had," Wilber said. "There has been a lot of success here and a lot of legendary names. Coaches like Gordon Fosness and Doug Martin, players like Alan Miller, Scott Morgan and Randy Fletcher to name just a few. For our group to have an impact on this program the way we did is pretty special."

In all, DWU set five new single-season team records in 2014-15, including surpassing the total wins in a season mark. The latest incarnation of the Tigers was not only the first team to ever win 30 games at DWU, they kept going to end the season at 32-5. The former record was 28 set in 2009-10 by a team that Wilber called one of the best ever.

"I walk through the halls here (the Christen Family Athletic Center) and I see that poster of the team that won 28 games, and I always thought to myself, that is a lot of wins," Wilber said about the historical impact of winning 32 games.

The Tigers also set the school mark for points scored in a season with 3,166, surpassing the old mark of 2,725, while also setting a new standard for field goals in a season with 1,130, topping the 2009-10 team’s record of 982. DWU inched past the field goal percentage record by one-tenth of a percentage point at 50.7 percent this season.

Until the 2014-15 season, the record for team assists in a season was not a statistic recorded by DWU. With the tremendous success passing the ball by the latest team, leading the nation in assists per game (20.67) and total assists (765), the record books were checked. With information dating back to 1981, the DWU athletic department has confirmed the total assists mark by the Tigers this season is the highest on record.

One statistic that Wilber liked to point out all season was the remarkable assist-to-turnover ratio the Tigers compiled. While assist-to-turnover ratio is not an officially recognized record at DWU, research was not able to uncover any team posting a better mark than DWU’s 2.270 in the last 20 years of NAIA or NCAA basketball.

"The assist-to-turnover ratio, because it is a yearlong stat, was really indicative of what we were like all year," Wilber said. "We had a great year from start to finish. Our guys were so unselfish and committed to doing it right."

Individually, Jalen Voss also reached a historic milestone in his final campaign as a Tiger. He became just the fifth DWU player to reach the 2,000-point mark in his career with a free throw against Ashford University in the second round of the NAIA tournament.

"Greatest thing about getting 2,000 points was doing it at the national tournament," Voss said. "Never thought I would get there."

Voss finished his career with 2,059 points, moving into fourth place on the Tiger all-time list. The Worthington,
Minn., native also earned his third NAIA All-American honor after being named to the first team for the first time in his career, and he was honored as the GPAC Player-of-the-Year.

“I think Jalen is up there with the greats at DWU,” Wilber said. “With what he accomplished in his time here, he has to be looked at as part of the handful of the best players ever to play at Dakota Wesleyan with the impact he made. I couldn’t be more proud of the guy with the way that he did it. He is so humble and extremely hardworking. It was all about doing the right things for Jalen.”

The scoring milestones did not end with Voss, as three Tigers reached the 1,000-point mark in their college careers in 2014-15. Senior guard Kris Menning, who was named to the NAIA All-American Third Team this season, scored his 1,000th point as a Tiger in a late-season road contest against Northwestern College. Junior guard Trae Bergh also netted his 1,000th point in royal blue and white against Concordia University in the GPAC quarterfinals at the Corn Palace. In the next game for the Tigers, senior Joey Mitchell added his 1,000th college point. Mitchell came to DWU before the 2014-15 season after spending his first three college seasons at Black Hills State University.

GPAC regular season co-champs, four All-GPAC team members, GPAC Player-of-the-Year (Voss), GPAC Defensive Player-of-the-Year (Luke Bamberg), GPAC Co-Coach-of-the-Year and NAIA National Coach-of-the-Year (Wilber) were just a handful of the honors received by DWU in 2014-15.

The regular season gave fans numerous memorable nights at the Corn Palace, while the tournament run is unmatched in DWU history. The 2014-15 Tigers started the season unranked and became perhaps the best in nearly 100 years of DWU basketball.

“There have been a lot of really great players and teams to come through here,” Voss said. “On paper it may look like we are the best, but it’s just an honor to be a part of DWU basketball history.”

Matt Wilber:
mawilber@dwu.edu

For the Record

DWU Single-Season Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wins</td>
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<td>28 (2009-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Goals</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>982 (2009-10)</td>
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<td>Field Goal %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Points</td>
<td>3,166</td>
<td>2,725 (2008-09)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assists</td>
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2015 NAIA Division II Men’s Basketball Tournament Results

Round One:
DWU def. Milligan College (Tenn.) 98-55; Leading Scorer: Jalen Voss, 26

Round Two:
DWU def. Ashford University (Iowa) 65-49; Leading Scorer: Jalen Voss, 21

Quarterfinals:
DWU def. College of Idaho 88-80; Leading Scorer: Trae Bergh, 19

Semifinals:
DWU def. Davenport University (Mich.) 80-51; Leading Scorer: Trae Bergh, 29

Championship:
Cornerstone University (Mich.) def. DWU 66-45; Leading Scorer: Jalen Voss, 20

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• Follow Tiger Athletics on Twitter @dwusports.

• Watch Tiger home games live at portal.stretchinternet.com/dwu.

• Get all of the latest news about DWU Tiger sports at www.dwuathletics.com.
An evening in early May brought a sense of familiarity for the Dakota Wesleyan University baseball team as they lined up across from Midland University with the Great Plains Athletic Conference Tournament title on the line at Cadwell Park in Mitchell.

The route the Tigers took to get to the title game was a winding road with several peaks and valleys along the way. After completing the season-opening trip to the Tucson, Ariz., with a 6-6 record, DWU had trouble getting started after returning home. The Tigers lost 11 of their next 14 games and started the GPAC regular season 1-7.

DWU showed signs of strong pitching and potent hitting early on, but seemed unable to put all facets of the game in place to string together wins. Lapses on defense also put the Tigers in holes they could not recover from early in the campaign. Sitting in last place near the midway point of the conference schedule, DWU turned things around under first-year coach John Greicar '11.

"Despite our early record, the team was playing well," Greicar said. "The players took it upon themselves to be a piece of the puzzle, and things started to come together in terms of wins. It was pretty special to be a part of."

With their season on the line nearly every time out, the Tigers turned things around in a hurry, winning nine of 12 games to close the GPAC regular season and earned a spot as the No. 7 seed in the league tournament. Despite heading into the GPAC Tournament as one of the lowest seeds, no team in the field was as hot as DWU at the time. The Tigers closed the regular season with a sweep of second-place Doane College on the road and two wins over rival Mount Marty College on Senior Day.

Senior catcher Ben Ladner said the motto of the team down the stretch was "don't let us make the tournament," as the team knew it would be dangerous if it made the GPAC postseason.

For the third time on 10 days, DWU topped Doane College, which was receiving votes in the NAIA Coaches' Poll at the time, as the Tigers opened the GPAC Tournament in Crete, Neb. DWU stormed through the next two games to emerge from the Doane bracket with a perfect 3-0 record.

As the No. 7 seed, there was little chance DWU would host the GPAC Championship Game, but everything that needed to happen did and the Tigers returned to Cadwell Park to play in the title game with an NAIA opening round berth on the line. For the second straight year, DWU went up against No. 8 seed Midland in a winner-take-all scenario.

"We were ecstatic for the opportunity to play at Cadwell, especially to have the rematch from last year against Midland," Ladner said. "Then to win the championship like we did gave me a sense of redemption and relief. Two moments that I'll always remember are the feeling of defeat last year, and the complete turnaround to when we got the trophy and looking up at the crowd celebrating with us gave me that feeling of being a champion."

The game against the Warriors quickly became a microcosm of the DWU season as a whole. The Tigers started off by kicking the ball around the field, compiling five errors as a team and falling behind 6-1 in the fifth inning. Through it all, senior Joey Fitzgerald, the GPAC Pitcher-of-the-Year, battled through and kept DWU in the game.

Then the Tiger bats came alive, as DWU scored two in the fifth and three in the sixth to even the score at six. At the end it was an RBI single from junior Austin Calhoon that delivered the game-winning run in the seventh.

"We were playing good baseball coming into the tournament," Greicar said. "We played with a chip on our shoulder and held ourselves accountable. Teams that do that put themselves in a position to win ball games. We knew we were going to be tough to beat in that tournament."

In front of the largest crowd of the season, the DWU players stormed the field to celebrate their fourth GPAC Tournament title and first since 2009. The Tigers earned a spot in the NAIA Opening Round in Oklahoma City, where they saw some of the best teams in the NAIA. DWU dropped two tightly contested games, but showed they can play with the top squads in the nation.
The success seen in the four years Kyle Gerlach spent at Dakota Wesleyan University was not just defined by what he did on the mat for the Tigers. The 2014-15 wrestling season brought Gerlach’s first NAIA All-American finish when he placed seventh at the national tournament in the 157-pound weight class. He was a four-time national qualifier and three-time team captain for the Tigers. The Mount Vernon native made even more of an impact in the classroom and in the community than he did in the circle. He went on two mission trips while at DWU (Peru and Africa), was a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters, worked with campus worship and Fusion, and was named the 2014 DWU Homecoming King and was a Scotchman candidate. Gerlach is a two-time Daktronics/NAIA Scholar-Athlete and four-time member of the NWCA All-Academic Team. Gerlach represented Dakota Wesleyan at the highest level in his time as a Tiger.
Wrestling
After a battling through an injury-filled season, the DWU wrestling team’s journey ended with an All-American performance at the NAIA National Championships in March. Tiger senior wrestler Kyle Gerlach earned his first All-American honor, finishing seventh at the NAIA meet in the 157-pound weight class. His journey through the NAIA National Championships included a match against senior teammate, Dusty Paulsen, which Gerlach won.

Track and Field
The Dakota Wesleyan University men’s and women’s track and field teams sent a pair of athletes to the NAIA Indoor National Championships. Junior Nicole Court-Menendez set a personal best time in the 3,000-meter race walk and finished ninth, one spot away from her third indoor All-American honor. Junior Skylar Forgey competed in the 1,000-meter run at the indoor national meet, where she placed 15th.

Softball
After a record-breaking season in 2014, the DWU softball team battled through a 10-34 season in 2015. The Tigers had several strong performances this season, including senior Danielle Klassen setting the school’s career stolen base record. Junior Hailey Unger also etched her name in the record books, setting the single-season and career RBI marks. Sophomore pitcher Lorissa Loepky earned a GPAC Player-of-the-Week honor after a midseason sweep of Briar Cliff University.

Men’s Golf
The 2015 Tiger men’s golf season came to a close at the fourth GPAC qualifier in April. DWU finished the league season in seventh place after a four-round score of 1,263. The Tigers were led by Tom Hoog, who finished the GPAC qualifiers in 20th place, while freshman Ben McNiven finished 22nd. The Tigers won one event in the spring, following two top finishes in the spring. DWU also held on to the TigBro Cup, which is contested in an annual dual with Hastings College.

Women’s Basketball
The DWU women’s basketball team finished the 2014-15 season 14-17 overall and 7-13 in the GPAC. The Tiger season ended in the first round of the GPAC Tournament with a loss to No. 1 Morningside College, the eventual NAIA National Champion. Senior guard Celeste Beck led the Tigers with 12.3 points per game, while earning All-GPAC First Team and NAIA All-American Honorable Mention honors. Beck and senior Katie Johnson each scored their 1,000th-career point for DWU this season.

Tiger Schedules
Visit www.dwuathletics.com to view updated athletic schedules for Wesleyan’s fall sports. For a list of 2015-16 DWU student-athlete recruits, visit www.dwuathletics.com/tiger-information/athletic-signees.

Women’s Golf
Winning the GPAC title has become an annual occurrence for the DWU women’s golf team and 2014-15 was no different. The Tigers ran away with their seventh straight conference championship, topping the field by 82 strokes. For the third straight season, junior Lauren Fitts was named GPAC Golfer-of-the-Year after dominating the spring season. She won the GPAC individual medal by seven strokes with a four-round score of 323. The Tigers moved onto the NAIA championships, where they placed 21st. Fitts was the lone Tiger to make the third-round cut and stormed up the leaderboard on the final two days to place 15th and earn a spot on the NAIA All-Tournament Team. DWU won six events in 2014-15, while finishing in the top three in four more. The Tigers swept all four GPAC qualifiers.
class notes.

We welcome alumni news for the Class Notes section of Wesleyan Today.

Please note that we edit Class Notes for length, with priority given to news specifically about alumni of Dakota Wesleyan. Go to the “Alumni & Visitors” link at www.dwu.edu and click on “update your information” to tell us what’s new with you.

1930s
Beth Ahern Allen ’37, of San Antonio, celebrated her 100th birthday recently. She was born May 24, 1915.

Howard Olsen ’38 celebrated his 99th birthday on Dec. 6, 2014.

1940s
Mavis Van Schaick Thompson ’45 taught 20 years thanks to her DWU diploma. She now enjoys spending time with friends and family, playing bridge and 500.

1950s
Ed Hallett ex’50 and his wife, Marianne, enjoyed a driving trip for his 86th birthday to visit Pearl and Dave Hallett ’59 in Fort Meyers, Fla. They also visited three of their children along the way.

Ron Hull ’52, HD’90 received the Mitchell V. Charnley Award at the Midwest Broadcast Journalists Association’s (MBJA) Conference in April. The award is given annually to an individual who works or has roots in the six-state MBJA region and who has made outstanding contributions to the field of broadcast journalism. Hull began his work at Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) in 1955. He is still active as NET senior adviser, and he is a professor emeritus in broadcasting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Lillian Hennig Colberg ’52 retired after 38 years of teaching general sciences, biology and chemistry.

1960s
Nancy Fink Lower ’60 sends greetings to fellow classmates. She is doing well, despite an accident that left her a quadriplegic.


Beverly Wieczorek Krietlow ’62 retired after 51 years as an RN. She has two children, two grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. She enjoys traveling, golfing and wintering in the South.

Charlotte Nold ’64 works as a full-time pastor at St. John UCC in Chicago, where she has served for 26 years.

“Skip” Opdahl ’64 sends greetings to his classmates and said he was sad to have missed the reunion and seeing everyone. He loves the winters in Arizona and California, especially winter league baseball. He is still wood carving several times a week and continues as a minister.

1970s
Keith ’71 and Barbara Miller ’71 Bullock are both retired. Barbara retired in August 2014. She was a pastor for more than 33 years serving 15 churches, including several at a time, in the Midwest. Keith retired in May 2013 from speech and language pathology.

Joan Gould Hafner ’71 turned 93 in January.

Jim McQuiston ’71 married Patricia del Rincon in Mexico.

This group of Dakota Wesleyan alumni gathers every February in Florida to enjoy a night of reminiscing about their years at DWU. Left to right: Clem Lagala ’64, of Point St. Lucie, Fla.; Myles Kennedy ’66, of Spearfish; Sandy Ebel Butler ’66, of Cinnaminson, N.J.; Al Koch ’66, of Durham, N.C.; Larry Herzog ’64, of Munnsville, N.Y.; and John Butler ’65, of Cinnaminson, N.J.
Jill Warner Franck ’74 was recently promoted to Coordinator of Aged Ministers Assistance at National Leadership Resource Center in Springfield, Mo.

Peggy Austreim Clarke ’76 is enjoying life in Howard. She has 14 grandchildren and one more on the way.

Jim Carlson ’76, a psychiatric social worker at the South Dakota Human Services Center in Yankton, received the South Dakota Healthcare Social Work Association Social Worker of the Year award in September. The award is given to someone who is an advocate for patients and their families. It also recognizes someone who influences change related to healthcare and other social justice issues.

Melissa Kuhlman Snoozy ’79 works as an RN at Avera Dermatology in Sioux Falls. She also helps her husband, Floyd, with their grain farm.

1980s

Barbara Metzger ’84 married Doyle Shaff in August 2014.

April Doorn Tyrell ’88 attended and enjoyed the Chicago alumni gathering.

Wanda Falor Rambin ’89 moved back to Mitchell and is working for Dakota Southern Railways.

1990s

Nicole Premus Cruz ’92 was asked to serve on the Texas Education Agency Librarian Certification Committee. She and her husband, Paul, will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on July 29, 2015.

Chad Larson ’94 received the Mitchell High School Assistant Coach of the Year Award after coaching his tennis boys to a 21-0 dual record and a second-place finish at the South Dakota High School Boys Tennis Championships. He has coached for 11 years for MHS and has worked for 18 years as the graphic design specialist at Dakota Wesleyan.

Nancy Dokken Deiter ’95 retired Aug. 28, 2014, after a 19-year career in home care. She has been married to her husband, James, for 52 years.

Terry Grindstaff ’99 received the 2015 Excellence in Education Award from the Sports Section of the American Physical Therapy Association.

2000s

Paula Larson ’02 received the Emerging Leader Award from the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota.

A Dakota Wesleyan Young Alumni Reunion was held this spring at a local bar and grill. Pictured are, from left to right, back row: Brandon Vetter ’03, of Mitchell; Chris Nebelsick ’07, of Mitchell; Dionne Neahrin Marshall ’05, of Warrenton, Ore.; Krystal Schneider Pike ex’05, of Hammond, Ore.; Yelle Wagner Turner ’03, of Wagner; Matt Bruzewski ’06, of Greeley, Colo.; Nick Gianou ’06, of Chicago; Brian Pollard ’05, of Portland, Ore.; Luke Norden ’03, of Mitchell; and Patrick Veurink ex’08, of Corsica. Middle row: Chris Marek ’05, of Fulton; Vicky Peterson Vetter ’03, of Mitchell; Tricia Luchett Oswald ’07, of Mitchell; Nikki Nebelsick Hobbie ’06, of Mitchell; Janae Poelma Gianou ’06, of Chicago; Ashley Schoenefelder Digmann ’06, of Parkston; Jared Digmann ’05, of Parkston; and Amy McIntyre Norden ’08, of Mitchell.

Front row: Kassie McManus Marek ’04, of Fulton; Amanda Lather ’06, ’09, of Mitchell; Lindsey Reandeau ’06, of Papillion, Neb.; Melissa Beilflower Pollard ’06, of Portland, Ore.; and Bridget Henneman Huber ’07, of Mitchell.

Ethel Johnson Hughes ’48, Donna Comstock Shafranek ’49 and Dee Leonard Dobberstein ’55, all of whom are residents of West Hills Village, Rapid City, recently met with DWU alumni director Jackie Wentworth ’83.

Rex Piercy ’71, of Arlington Heights, Ill., displays his Dakota Wesleyan license plate holder, purchased at the DWU Campus Bookstore. He is proud to use this “mini billboard” to promote his alma mater in his Chicago suburb.
Clarke Award for Teaching Excellence

Jerry Luckett was awarded the prestigious Clarke Award for Teaching Excellence during Commencement services. Luckett, a 1989 DWU alumna, is an associate professor of business administration and economics. She joined the faculty in 1990, with her primary teaching areas being management and marketing.

Friends

Gloria Smith Rockhold, former assistant professor of English, is enjoying retirement and does a lot of traveling. Since 2008, she’s been to France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and toured many European countries. She’s anticipating an upcoming trip to Iceland.


Deaths

Mabel Lindblad McEntee ’34, of Mitchell, died on Nov. 26, 2014.

Josephine Carlson Schmitt MH’36, of Custer, died on Aug. 17, 2014. He was 100 years old.

Doris Smith MH’36, of Spring, Texas, died on Sept. 29, 2010.

Ruth McCaskell Lundstrom ’37, of Park Rapids, Minn., died on Jan. 8, 2015.

Esther Knutson Buttrey ’39, of Ogden, Iowa, died on May 6, 2015.
Elizabeth Hoffman, Associate Professor of Nursing

Hoffman was with DWU for the past 25 years in the nursing department.

"Elizabeth Hoffman is a gem," said President Amy Novak. "She has a wonderful sense of humor and a warm laugh that can take one to a point of crying. Her quiet mannerisms can fool students sometimes, especially when she addresses student issues. She is not afraid to have firm discussions with students. Elizabeth values fairness and will help students as long as it is fair to all other students in the class.

"Elizabeth is a master educator. She is known for her no-nonsense, to-the-point, and practical approach to teaching. ... One of her most famous lines is 'I will do my best, you can expect nothing less.' Elizabeth will be greatly missed by the nursing department."

Wyonne Kaemingk ’77, Nursing A.A. Program Director

Kaemingk is a DWU alumna and has been part of the DWU’s nursing faculty for 31 years.

"Wyonne Kaemingk has been the face of DWU for many, many years," Novak said. "Numerous students remember her passion for nursing, her ability to be tough, yet kind, and her strong Christian faith.

"She has touched the lives of every nursing student who has ever graduated from DWU Mitchell campus. She has listened to and encouraged students who needed to hear a kind word (and) offered more needed hugs than can be counted."

Gretchen Rich, Assistant Professor of English

Rich just celebrated her 10-year anniversary with the college’s English department.

"I first recognized Gretchen’s kind nature during my phone interview for a position in the English department. Her patience with students is very nearly limitless," Novak read from a colleague’s note.

Bev Rumbolz, Custodian

Rumbolz has been the custodian for Dayton Hall, the freshman dormitory, for the last eight years.

"She has been like a second mother to the students in Dayton Hall," Novak said. "She knows most all of the students by their first names and has a kind word and smile when she passes by."


Hazel Hershey Wheeldon ’39, of Sioux Falls, died on Dec. 28, 2014.

Joan Bishop Clark ’41, of Omaha, Neb., died on Feb. 22, 2015.

Esther Langeland Henderson MH’41, of Jeffersonville, Ind., died on May 21, 2014.


Hope Lone Podgornik MH’42, of Sioux Falls, died on Nov. 27, 2014.

Helen Vetter MH’42, of Sebring, Fla., died on July 31, 2014.

Irene Jensen Enright ’43, of Crystal Lake, Ill., died on April 5, 2015.

Harry Kunkle ex’44, of Des Moines, Iowa, died on July 2, 2013.

Lillian Lindeman Williamson MH’44, of Clinton, La., died on April 21, 2014.

Ruby Ahrens Blum ’45, of Olivia, Minn., died on Jan. 10, 2015.

Betty Hagerty Seppi MH’45, of Jackson, Calif., died on April 9, 2015.

Blanche Saul Tolman MH’45, of Eagle Butte, died on Jan. 18, 2013.

Walter Smith ex’46, of Wilton, Conn., died on Feb. 12, 2015.

Keith Miller ’47, of Pierre, died on Feb. 19, 2015. He is survived by his sister, Ardith Miller ’50.

JoAnn Adams Barns ’47, MH’47, of Mitchell, died on Dec. 12, 2014.

Mim Smith Fritzemeier ’48, of Sioux Falls, died on May 19, 2015. She is survived by her husband, Fritz Fritzemeier ’50, her son, Jed Fritzemeier ex ’81; her sister, Tita Smith Buxtion ’53; and her brother, Tito Smith ex’45.
LaRue Schnabel Heinert MH’48, of Mitchell, died on April 25, 2015. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Heinert Stern MH’74.

Vivian Oberembt Shepherd MH’49, of Collegeville, Pa., died on Feb. 5, 2013.

Sheryl Hutchinson Anderberg ex’50, of Edgerton, Kan., died on March 13, 2015.

Glenn Buss ’50, of Spokane Valley, Wash., died on March 1, 2015.

June Kingsley Hagen MH’50, of Torrance, Calif., died on June 5, 2013.

Alvin Heckel ’50 died on Nov. 27, 2014. Two of his surviving children, Vicki Hambiet ’72 and Vaughn Heckel ’75, are DWU alumni.

Ruth Weyand Lapp ex’50, of Perry, Iowa, died on Sept. 9, 2014.


George Willis ’50, of Sioux Falls, died on April 2, 2015.

Bill Autio ’51, of Coronado, Calif., died on Feb. 17, 2014.

Spencer Smith ex’51, of Spokane, Wash., died on Dec. 7, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Moore Smith ’51.

Walter Sterrett ex’51, of Marcus, Iowa, died on June 18, 2014.

Janet Walton Nelson MH’52, of Waite Park, Minn., died on Sept. 10, 2012. She is survived by her brother, Jerry ’56, HD’98, and his wife, Pat Leach ’57 Walton, of Sioux Falls.

Phyllis Ediger Sutton MH’55, of Watertown, died on June 9, 2014.


Gary Altman Owens ex’56, of Encino, Calif., died on Feb. 12, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Arlette Markell Owens ’75.

Glenn Trimble Tays ’56, of Rapid City, died on March 20, 2015.

Lois Price Patten ’57, of Raymore, Mo., died on Nov. 27, 2014.

Donald Smith ’57, of Aurora, Colo., died on Jan. 18, 2015.

Pearl Olson ’58, ’74, of Mitchell, died on Dec. 5, 2014.

Richard Lassegard ’58, of Berlin, Md., died on Nov. 6, 2014.

Elaine Konechne MH’59, of Kimball, died on Nov. 18, 2014.

Clark Hilton ’59, of Lake Norden, died on April 17, 2015.

Lela Hutton Case ’62, of Mitchell, died on April 30, 2015.
This was the sixth year that DWU sent students, staff and faculty into the Mitchell community for its annual Service Day.

Betsy Carlson ex’65, of Sioux Falls, died on April 8, 2014.

Randy Borges ex’66, of Hurst, Texas, died on Feb. 12, 2015.

Louie Church ’68, of Sioux City, Iowa, died on May 8, 2015.

Patricia Wilson ’68, of Sioux Falls, died on Dec. 15, 2014.

Steve Mahoney ex’69, of Mitchell, died on Feb. 11, 2015.

Daniel Nagel ex’69, of Rapid City, died on March 23, 2015.


Dave Geores ’70, of Sahuarita, Ariz., died on Dec. 4, 2014.

Claude “CJ” Snedeker ex’70, of Mitchell, died on Nov. 17, 2014.

Tillie Oster Frita’71, of Parkston, died on Nov. 23, 2014.

Janice Walter Hofer ’71, of Bridgewater, died on Dec. 10, 2014.

LaVera Scott Reeves-Knox ’77, of Chamberlain, died on Nov. 23, 2014.

Odney Ellingson ’78, of East Grand Forks, Minn., died on Nov. 29, 2014.

Arthur Miller ’78, of Stillwater, Minn., died on Dec. 19, 2014.

Cheryl Duffel Hoffman ex’91, of Brandon, died on Feb. 25, 2015.


Daniel Williams ’01, of Rapid City, died on Dec. 27, 2014.

Korie Schryvers ex’02, of Mitchell, died on May 10, 2015.

Friends

Eleanor Cochrane HD’76 died on March 17, 2015. Eleanor was an employee from 1972 to 1975. She also served on the DWU Board of Trustees from 1976 to 1988. She is survived by her sons, Alan Cochrane ex’62, Jim Cochrane ’65 and Dave Cochrane ex’67.

Lue Folan died on April 16, 2015. She was a secretary at DWU from 1948 to 1953.

Francis Gilmore died on May 4, 2015. He served as the head of the history and political science department from 1956 to 1958.

Kay Allen Groves, of Faith, died on April 15, 2015. Kay was the daughter of Harland ’1913 and Alma Allen, namesake of Allen Hall.


Mary Malde died on Jan. 10, 2015. She worked in housekeeping and in the Tiger’s Lair snack stand for many years.

Sue Olinger died on Feb. 19, 2015. She was a cook on campus for many years.

Donald Pinhey, DWU football coach from 1959 to 1963, died on Nov. 13, 2014.


Donald Veglahn HD’79, of Sioux Falls, died on March 10, 2015.


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2015 Date Book

- Aug. 6-7 – Global Leadership Summit
- Aug. 21-23 – New Student Orientation
- Aug. 24 – Fall Classes Begin
- Aug. 27 – Opening Convocation
- Sept. 7 – Labor Day (no classes, offices closed)
- Sept. 24 – “Always Patsy Cline,” by DWU Theatre, opens
- Sept. 25 – Legacy Banquet
- Sept. 24-26 – Blue & White Days

www.dwu.edu/events
FACE

JASMIN VANT

TOP: Jasmin Vant, a history education major from Canton, poses for a photo in Jackson Plaza following Baccalaureate services this spring. Vant graduated on May 3.

AT RIGHT: Jasmin Vant ’15 and Kayla Summerville ’14 smile for a photo at the homecoming football game in 2013.
FACE value

meet JASMIN VANT

HOMETOWN: Canton, S.D.  MAJOR: History Education  MINORS: Spanish, Music  ACTIVITIES/CLUBS: Future Teachers Organization, Multicultural Committee, Dakota Wesleyan Choir, Highlanders, Worship Planning Committee, worship team, work study

Describe yourself in three words.
Achiever, caring, easy-going

Why Wesleyan?
I attended a youth event at DWU when I was in eighth grade, and I fell in love with the campus. I basically knew from then on that I wanted to go to Dakota Wesleyan. I also loved the small size and the fact that DWU is affiliated with the Methodist Church, which has always been a big part of my life.

What has been your most important experience at DWU?
For me the most important things that I experienced at DWU were the mission trips I was able to take to New Orleans, Peru and Mexico. I have always had a passion for helping people, and I absolutely loved the trips I was able to take and the people we were able to help. These were defining moments in my life, and I will be forever grateful that I was able to have these experiences through DWU. Those trips and the people I met while there, not to mention the amazing experiences, will stay with me forever.

What’s your funniest DWU memory?
Picking just one is really hard! I think I have to give a few. The funniest memories that come to mind are the talent shows and events that DWU put on. I would also choose the crazy experiences that happened on mission trips, like getting our bus stuck on the beach, the great times we had while digging trenches in so many feet of dirt in Peru, painting the wrong parts of various houses in New Orleans. I could go on forever!

What teacher/role model made you want to be a teacher?
I have wanted to be a teacher since I was in fourth grade. My biggest influence was my sixth-grade world history teacher, Mrs. Ventura. She was an incredible teacher, and she was so passionate about the subject that I just fell in love with it. It was her influence that made me want to become a history teacher.

Greatest “ah-ha” moment:
My greatest ah-ha moment at DWU was probably during my student teaching experience. There was a time in my 15 weeks that I just suddenly realized that I really, truly loved teaching. I think it was when I was teaching a unit on the Constitution and my eighth-graders were struggling with some of the concepts, and after several days of talking about how government worked it just seemed to click for them. I had several students approach me and tell me they had never realized how fun government/history could be until I taught it to them. That for me was a huge moment of clarity.

I value ...
the education I received from DWU and the amazing people, both friends and professors, who I met while attending Dakota Wesleyan.

I never imagined ...
how much DWU would change my life. I have met my best friends at college, and the amazing staff and faculty at DWU were so inspiring.

What’s next?
I am currently a teacher at the Abbott House, and I will be starting a new position as the social studies teacher at Second Chance High in Mitchell in August.
Dakota Wesleyan University’s Digital Campus: See what’s new with your alma mater!

We have expanded our online programs to help you kick-start your career in 2015!

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